Dear Raphaela, 1/29/95

Because I d not want to interrupt Peter or intrude upon his thinking, will you please, when it will not be inconvenient for him, learn for me what I ask?

Yesterday the assistant director of the board that is to see to the disclosure of all government assassination records was here with another of the board's staff. They told me they have and are using Case Open and Selections. When they asked what was eliminated from Case Open and I told them they expressed an interest in it so I loaned them the disks. They also asked me questions the answer to which are in NEVER AGAIN! I made no offers on that, not knowing what I should or should not do. And also not knowing what if anything was removed.

Their responsibility is to see that all relevant records are made available. They told me that they can hold hearings, take testimony under oath and issue subpoenaes. I knew that. But that they indicated a willingess to do those things told me what I did not know. And we may not until an occasion arises. When it will not be a staff decision.

They also told me that they are only now beginning to get into their real work. This tells me that I'd like to respond to their interests as soon as I can, before they can get sidetracked into glittering theories that will lead them nowhere except into trouble.

Of what they indicated will be of probable major interest to them what happened to the autopsy notes is dealt with in great detail in NEVER AGAIN! so far as I know. I did not remember the numbers they will need for a real search. Other things in it too, but this in particular. Other questions they asked are addressed in the Afterword. I did tell them that if that is not in the book I can copy it for them.

I have asked several time if the book will be as Peter and I agreed after he agreed to restore some of the cuts Adler made solely to shorten the book. I am not now pressing for an answer because with the decision made it makes no difference because I never got the copy of the ms. with the agreed-to editing. Although I would prefer to direct them to what is in the book so they can get started on that before they can get sidetracked with the nutty stuff so much of which they do not know enough to recognize, I have already given them what they can now procede with that is not in the book. It would be good to know, if it is the fact, that what Peter and I agreed to is what is to be published. That is because I think I have a clear enough recollection. What I can be told easily and requires little time up there is whether the Afterword is in it. Then all I need to know if it is is whether it is OK to give them a copy and let them start trying to get what it tells them should exist. If it is not in I can then do that on my own.

I did not offer them a copy of the copy-edited ms. When I get it or of the proofs that I'll get later. I believe it could help rather than hurt the book if I do but I do not believe that is my decision to make. I would like guidance on this. And to know so I can tell them roughly when there might be proofs and when the printed volume should be available to them.

I know they want to locate those autopsy notes very much, and they should. When they get into it they will find that Humes swore to two contradictory versions, which, given the materiality, is perjury. If they take testimony on that it means a real scandal.

And that is only one of the several such potential situations.

I did not pry. I did not try to direct them. I merely offered to be of what help I can be. They left here with copies of records in quite a few areas of their work. They did ask me to make suggestions and I'll do that.

The way they'll probably have to work if the book is on the announced schedule it should be out before they can make any publicuse of it, if they do. But if they do and for their work they'll have to get started before then, if it is to be close to what they start off with.

Sincerely,

Harold